

# Documents on Diplomacy: The Source

## The Boxer Protocol

Peace Agreement between China and the Great Powers, September 7, 1901

THE PLENIPOTENTIARIES of . . . [ambassadors from 9 European powers, the United States, and Japan together with Chinese representatives Li Hongzhang and Yikuang] have met for the purpose of declaring that China has complied with the conditions laid down in the note of the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1900, and which were accepted in their entirety by His Majesty the Emperor of China in a Decree dated the 27<sup>th</sup> December, 1900.

### ARTICLE I

1) By an Imperial Edict of the 9<sup>th</sup> June last, . . . Prince of the First Rank, Chun, was appointed Ambassador of His Majesty the Emperor of China, and directed in that capacity to convey to His Majesty the German Emperor the expression of the regrets of His Majesty the Emperor of China and of the Chinese Government at the assassination of his Excellency the late Baron von Ketteler, German Minister. Prince Chun left Peking on the 12<sup>th</sup> July last to carry out the orders which had been given him.

2) The Chinese Government has stated that it will erect on the spot of the assassination of his Excellency the late Baron von Ketteler, a commemorative monument worthy of the rank of the deceased, and bearing an inscription in the Latin, German, and Chinese languages which shall express the regrets of His Majesty the Emperor of China for the murder committed. The Chinese Plenipotentiaries have informed his Excellency the German Plenipotentiary, in a letter dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> July last, that an arch of the whole width of the street would be erected on the said spot, and that work on it was begun on the 25<sup>th</sup> June last.

### ARTICLE II

1) Imperial Edicts of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1901, inflicted the following punishments on the principal authors of the attempts and of the crimes committed against the foreign Governments and their nationals:

● [List of Names omitted] were sentenced to be brought before the Autumnal Court of Assize for execution, and it was agreed that if the Emperor saw fit to grant them their lives, they should be exiled to Turkestan, and there imprisoned for life, without the

possibility of commutation of these punishments.

- [List of Names omitted] were condemned to commit suicide.
- [List of Names omitted] were condemned to death.
- Posthumous degradation was inflicted on [list of Names omitted.]
- Imperial Edict of the 13<sup>th</sup> February last rehabilitated the memories of [list of Names omitted] who had been put to death for having protested against the outrageous breaches of international law of last year.
- Prince Chuang committed suicide on the 21<sup>st</sup> February last; Ying Nien and Chao Shu-chiao on the 24<sup>th</sup> February; Yu Hsien was executed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February; Chi Hsiu and Hsu Cheng-yu on the 26<sup>th</sup> February; Tung Fu-hsiang, General in Kan-su, has been deprived of his office by Imperial Edict of the 13<sup>th</sup> February last, pending the determination of the final punishment to be inflicted on him. Imperial Edicts, dated the 29<sup>th</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1901, have inflicted various punishments on the provincial officials convicted of the crimes and outrages of last summer.

2) An Imperial Edict, promulgated the 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1901, ordered the suspension of official examinations for five years in all cities where foreigners were massacred or submitted to cruel treatment.

### ARTICLE III

So as to make honourable reparation for the assassination of Mr. Sugiyama, Chancellor of the Japanese Legation, His Majesty the Emperor of China, by an Imperial Edict of the 18<sup>th</sup> June, 1901, appointed Na T'ung, Vice-President of the Board of Finances, to be his Envoy Extraordinary, and specially directed him to convey to His Majesty the Emperor of Japan the expression of the regrets of His Majesty the Emperor of China and of his Government at the assassination of Mr. Sugiyama.

### ARTICLE IV

The Chinese Government has agreed to erect an expiatory monument in each of the foreign or international cemeteries

which were desecrated, and in which the tombs were destroyed. It has been agreed with the Representatives of the Powers that the Legations interested shall settle the details for the erection of these monuments, China bearing all the expenses thereof, estimated at 10,000 *taels*, for the cemeteries at Peking and in its neighborhood, and at 5,000 *taels* for the cemeteries in the provinces. The amounts have been paid, and the list of these cemeteries is inclosed herewith.

#### ARTICLE V

China has agreed to prohibit the importation into its territory of arms and ammunition, as well as of materials exclusively used for the manufacture of arms and ammunition. An Imperial Edict has been issued on the 25<sup>th</sup> August, forbidding said importation for a term of two years. New Edicts may be issued subsequently extending this by other successive terms of two years in case of necessity recognized by the Powers.

#### ARTICLE VI

By an Imperial Edict dated the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1901, His Majesty the Emperor of China agreed to pay the Powers an indemnity of 450,000,000 of Haikwan *taels*. This sum represents the total amount of the indemnities for States, Companies, or Societies, private individuals and Chinese, referred to in Article 6 of the note of the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1900. . . .

#### ARTICLE VII

The Chinese Government has agreed that the quarter occupied by the Legations shall be considered as one specially reserved for their use and placed under their exclusive control, in which Chinese shall not have the right to reside, and which may be made defensible. . . . In the Protocol annexed to the letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1901, China recognized the right of each Power to maintain a permanent guard in the said quarter for the defence of its Legation.

#### ARTICLE VIII

The Chinese Government has consented to raze the forts of Taku, and those which might impede free communication between Peking and the sea. Steps have been taken for carrying this out.

#### ARTICLE IX

The Chinese Government conceded the right to the Powers in the Protocol annexed to the letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1901, to occupy certain points, to be determined by an Agreement between them for the maintenance of open communication between the capital and the sea. . . .

#### ARTICLE X

The Chinese Government has agreed to post and to have published during two years in all district cities the following Imperial Edicts:

- 1) Edict of the 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1901, prohibiting forever under pain of death, membership in any anti-foreign society.
- 2) Edicts of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February, 29<sup>th</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1901, enumerating the punishments inflicted on the guilty.
- 3) Edict of the 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1901, prohibiting examinations in all cities where foreigners were massacred or subjected to cruel treatment.
- 4) Edicts of the 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1901, declaring all Governors General, Governors, and provincial or local officials responsible for order in their respective districts, and that in case of new anti-foreign troubles or other infractions of the Treaties which shall not be immediately repressed and the authors of which shall not have been punished, these officials shall be immediately dismissed without possibility of being given new functions or new honours. The posting of these Edicts is being carried on throughout the Empire.

#### ARTICLE XI

The Chinese Government has agreed to negotiate the amendments deemed necessary by the foreign Governments to the Treaties of Commerce and Navigation and the other subjects concerning commercial relations with the object of facilitating them. . . .

## ARTICLE XII

An Imperial Edict of the 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1901, reformed the Office of Foreign Affairs, *Tsungli Yamen*, on the lines indicated by the Powers, that is to say, transformed it into a Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Wai Wu Pu*, which takes precedence over the six other Ministries of State; the same Edict appointed the principal Members of this Ministry. An agreement has also been reached concerning the modification of Court ceremonial as regards the reception of foreign Representatives, and has been the subject of several notes from the Chinese Plenipotentiaries, the substance of which is embodied in a Memorandum herewith annexed. Finally, it is expressly understood that as regards the declarations specified above and the annexed documents originating with the foreign Plenipotentiaries, the French text only is authoritative. The

Chinese Government having thus complied to the satisfaction of the Powers with the conditions laid down in the above-mentioned note of the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1900, the Powers have agreed to accede to the wish of China to terminate the situation created by the disorders of the summer of 1900. In consequence thereof, the foreign Plenipotentiaries are authorized to declare in the names of their Governments that, with the exception of the Legation guards mentioned in ARTICLE VII, the international troops will completely evacuate the city of Peking on the 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1901, and, with the exception of the localities mentioned in ARTICLE IX, will withdraw from the Province of Chihli on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 1901. The present final Protocol has been drawn up in twelve identical copies, and signed by all the Plenipotentiaries of the contracting countries..... ■

### *Source*

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[http://www.international.ucla.edu/eas/documents/010907boxer\\_protocol.htm](http://www.international.ucla.edu/eas/documents/010907boxer_protocol.htm)